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News Release



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LISTING OF CASEY'S JUNE BEETLE UNDER ESA FOUND WARRANTED BUT PRECLUDED

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced today that the Casey's June beetle warrants protection, but that listing the species under the Endangered Species Act is precluded by the need to take other listing actions of a higher priority.

The Service will add the Casey's June beetle to its list of candidate species and review its status annually. When a "warranted but precluded" finding is made for a species, the Service classifies it as a candidate for listing. If the Service proposes to list this species under the Act in the future, the public will have an opportunity to comment.

The Service made its determination in response to a petition filed in May 2004, by Dr. David H. Wright, the Center for Biological Diversity and the Sierra Club. In accordance with a settlement agreement resulting from a lawsuit filed against the Service by the petitioners, the Service completed an initial review in August 2006, and concluded that the petition contained substantial information supporting a full study of the Casey's June beetle's status.

A comprehensive review – known as a 12-month finding – has now been completed and the Service has determined that there is sufficient scientific and commercial data to propose listing the species as endangered under the Act. Primary threats to the species include the present or threatened destruction of habitat and inadequate regulatory mechanisms to conserve the species. However, the Service is precluded from beginning work on a listing proposal because its resources are being devoted to other, higher priority actions.

The Casey's June beetle, found only in California, is one of two currently identified species in the genus Dinacoma. This species measures about 0.55 to 0.71 inches with dusty brown or whitish coloring and brown and cream longitudinal stripes on the elytra (wing covers/back). Between late March and early June, Casey's June beetles emerge from burrows. After emergence, the females remain on the ground while the males begin a short flight season (about 1 week) seeking out the females for reproduction.

Currently, the only known population of the Casey's June beetle inhabits about 600 contiguous acres of land in southern Palm Springs, California.

A copy of the 12-Month Finding is available on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/Carlsbad>, or by contacting the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office at 760/431-9440.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 97-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 547 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 63 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American Tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to State fish and wildlife agencies.

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